



**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
HOPKINS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2000 TAXES**

August 9, 2001

**EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
HOPKINS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2000 TAXES

August 9, 2001

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2000 Taxes for Hopkins County Sheriff as of August 9, 2001. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

Financial Condition:

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$13,025,178 for the districts for 2000 taxes. The Sheriff distributed taxes of \$12,662,735 to the districts for 2000 Taxes. Taxes of \$2,080 are due to the districts from the Sheriff and refunds of \$1,156 are due to the Sheriff from the taxing districts.

Deposits:

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities or bonds.

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EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky

Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor

T. Kevin Flanery, Secretary

Finance and Administration Cabinet

Dana Mayton, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet

Honorable Richard L. Frymire, Hopkins County Judge/Executive

Honorable Gary Lee, Hopkins County Sheriff

Members of the Hopkins County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Hopkins County Sheriff's Settlement - 2000 Taxes as of August 9, 2001. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Hopkins County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Hopkins County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid as of August 9, 2001, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
T. Kevin Flanery, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Dana Mayton, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable Richard L. Frymire, Hopkins County Judge/Executive
Honorable Gary Lee, Hopkins County Sheriff
Members of the Hopkins County Fiscal Court

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated May 22, 2002, on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
May 22, 2002

HOPKINS COUNTY
GARY LEE, SHERIFF
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2000 TAXES

August 9, 2001

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 1,182,296	\$ 419,694	\$ 6,151,884	\$ 1,477,587
Tangible Personal Property	249,576	92,984	1,258,343	628,394
Intangible Personal Property				267,036
Fire Protection	1,413			
Taxes Increased Through Erroneous Assessments	463	179	2,395	577
Franchise Corporation Taxes	195,590	72,422	1,077,195	
Gas - Additional Billings	78	26	403	97
Additional Billings	5,843	2,084	35,962	8,840
Unmined Coal - Additional Billings	29	11	158	43
Unmined Coal - 2000 Taxes	19,695	6,536	101,961	24,575
Oil Property Taxes	3,697	1,227	19,139	4,613
Gas Property Taxes	626	208	3,241	781
Bank Franchises	115,932			
Undeveloped Oil and Gas Property Taxes	55	18	285	69
Penalties	10,435	3,661	54,026	14,632
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	1	16		17
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	<u>\$ 1,785,729</u>	<u>\$ 599,066</u>	<u>\$ 8,704,992</u>	<u>\$ 2,427,261</u>
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	\$ 6,025	\$ 2,039	\$ 31,175	\$ 8,566
Discounts	19,244	6,873	99,518	34,374
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	34,435	11,879	178,140	42,956
Tangible Personal Property	901	336	5,965	3,740
Intangible Personal Property				2,209
Exonerations - Additional Bills	239	84	1,267	318
Penalties Waived	154	55	800	332
Uncollected Franchise Corporation Taxes	37	14	195	
Total Credits	<u>\$ 61,035</u>	<u>\$ 21,280</u>	<u>\$ 317,060</u>	<u>\$ 92,495</u>

HOPKINS COUNTY
 GARY LEE, SHERIFF
 SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2000 TAXES
 August 9, 2001
 (Continued)

Net Taxes Yield	\$ 1,724,694	\$ 577,786	\$ 8,387,932	\$ 2,334,766
Less: Commissions *	<u>73,587</u>	<u>24,083</u>	<u>156,183</u>	<u>99,515</u>
Net Taxes Due	\$ 1,651,107	\$ 553,703	\$ 8,231,749	\$ 2,235,251
Taxes Paid	1,648,734	554,273	8,225,815	2,233,913
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	<u>1,018</u>	<u>358</u>	<u>5,384</u>	<u>1,391</u>
Due Districts or (Refunds Due Sheriff) as of Completion of Fieldwork	<u>\$ 1,355</u>	<u>\$ (928)</u>	<u>\$ 550</u>	<u>\$ (53)</u>

* Commissions:

10% on	\$ 10,000
4.25% on	\$ 4,612,681
1.87% on	\$ 8,119,392
1.62% on	\$ 268,541
1% on	\$ 14,564

** Special Taxing Districts:

Health District	\$ 140
Extension District	(1,072)
Upper Pond Watershed District	31
West Fork Watershed District	(31)
Flat Creek Watershed District	3
Suthards Fire District	<u>1</u>

Refunds Due Sheriff \$ (928)

*** School Districts:

Common School District	\$ 470
Independent School District	<u>80</u>

Due School Districts \$ 550

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

HOPKINS COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

August 9, 2001

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue, which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue, which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue, which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. These requirements were met, and as of August 9, 2001, the Sheriff's deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of either pledged securities held by the Sheriff's agent in the Sheriff's name, or provided surety bond which named the Sheriff as beneficiary/obligee on the bond.

HOPKINS COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
August 9, 2001
(Continued)

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2000. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2001. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was September 26, 2000 through April 18, 2001.

B. Unmined Coal Taxes

The tangible property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2000. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was November 22, 2000 through May 2, 2001.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Hopkins County Sheriff earned \$52,053 as interest income on 2000 taxes. The Sheriff overpaid interest income to the school districts. As of May 22, 2002, the Sheriff is due refunds of \$11,292 in interest from the county school district and \$207 in interest from the independent school district. He also needs to transfer \$11,580 in interest from his tax account to his fee account.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Hopkins County Sheriff collected \$62,212 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.430(3). This amount will be used to operate the Sheriff's office.

Note 6. Advertising Costs And Fees

The Hopkins County Sheriff collected \$4,000 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 134.440(2). The advertising fees will be used to operate the Sheriff's office. The county pays the advertising costs.

Note 7. Bond Coverage

KRS 134.250 requires the Sheriff to execute bond, in the minimum sum of \$10,000, to cover all money collected by him. KRS 134.230 authorizes the Fiscal Court to require the Sheriff to execute a bond, to be approved by Fiscal Court, when the Fiscal Court deems it necessary in the interest of the state or county. During the 2000 tax year, the highest amount of tax collections on hand for the tax account was \$2,453,641. Since the Sheriff's bond was only \$350,000, the amount of the bond appears inadequate to protect the county from potential loss.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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**Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards**

We have audited the Hopkins County Sheriff's Settlement - 2000 Taxes as of August 9, 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated May 22, 2002. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Hopkins County Sheriff's Settlement - 2000 Taxes as of August 9, 2001 is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Hopkins County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified party.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
May 22, 2002

